

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

March 1, 2012
1:15 P.M.

Members Present: Joanne Christian, Samtra Devard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Chris Kenton, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Kathleen Thomas, and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

Members Absent: Michael Casson, Stephanie DeWitt, Marilyn Dollard, Wendy Murray, Whitney Price, and Shelley Rouser.

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Donna Mitchell; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Professional Development, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; State Board of Education Executive Director, Deb Stevens; DSEA, and Les McCallum; Pearson.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 1:40 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels advised that he sent official written responses to the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC), and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) responding to their questions and concerns regarding regulations *1505 Standard Certificate* and *1506 Emergency Certificate*. The PSB had reviewed and incorporated some of their editorial suggestions into those regulations prior to Final Approval.
- Mr. Michels informed the Board of a conversation he had with Dr. Mary Ellen Kotz-McGraw, the Education Associate for Induction Programs (Mentoring) and Evaluation. Dr. Kotz-McGraw is retiring from the Department at the end of the school year. Due to the fact that the PSB has purview over the Mentoring programs, per regulation *1503 Educator Mentoring*, Dr. Kotz-McGraw wants to make sure the PSB stays abreast of the programs. She plans to attend the May 3rd

PSB meeting by providing the DOE Report on the status of the DE Mentoring Programs.

- Mr. Michels advised that he has a meeting scheduled with the Delaware Department of Education's Science Education Associates and the Delaware Science Coalition Co-Chairs to discuss possible amends to Regulation **1543 Secondary Science Teacher**.
- Mr. Michels had a productive day participating as a judge in the annual DECA conference at the Dover Sheraton Hotel on February 9, 2012.
- Mr. Michels said he has had some conversations with Dr. Wayne Barton's Teacher and Administrator Quality Development work group on a variety of issues and regulations, including implementing changes in recently amended **1505 Standard Certificate** and **1506 Emergency Certificate**.
- Mr. Michels participated in a meeting with Representative Schooley; House Education Committee Chair, Howard Weinberg; DSEA Executive Director, three representatives from the DE School Nursing Association, Ms. Fontello and Ms. Thomas to discuss the current status of HB107. Comments and concerns previously shared with Mr. Michels via the GACEC and the School Nurses the Council had solicited were discussed. The current status of the law was clarified including that the Delaware Code requires all educators including School Nurses to complete student teaching or one of the three alternatives listed in the Code. Because school nurses do not have an ARTC or Special institute program available, it would appear the only alternative to student teaching available for School Nurses is to complete a 91 day long term substitute position with two satisfactory evaluations. It was clarified that School Nurses could take the Praxis I test during this assignment. The issue around which the majority of the conversation ranged was the timeframe allowed for Specialists to pass the Praxis I. The contention by those present was not that School Nurse applicants could not pass the test of general knowledge, but that they needed time after hire to take and pass the test. After considerable dialogue, a tentative compromise was discussed that would allow 60 days after hire for Specialists to pass Praxis I or their Initial License would be suspended. Mr. Michels advised he would take the proposed change back to the PSB for consideration. After the meeting concluded and upon further consideration, it was discussed that it would be best to extend the 60 day window for all educators and not give any special treatment to one individual group. Mr. Michels indicated he has personally had second thoughts on the proposed compromise and that he would continue to do further research and request of the DOE their feedback on the latest HB 107 turn of events.
- Mr. Michels informed the PSB that there were concerns that the April 5th PSB meeting might be rescheduled due to lack of attendance, as it falls on the day before Spring Recess. He is going to e-mail the PSB to gather a consensus on the best day of that week for the April PSB meeting.

IV. **DOE Report**

Ms. Thomas introduced Dr. Susan Keene Haberstroh; DDOE Education Associate, Legislative Liaison and Regulation Review, and Ms. Joanne Reihm; DDOE Education Associate, Accountability Resources, Teaching and Learning Branch. They gave a brief

overview of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility request that DOE has been working on and had recently submitted to the US Department of Education. They passed a handout to PSB members that showed the Department of Education's activities since January 5, 2012. They said they had participated in a peer pre-review session set up by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) led by Dr. Scott Palmer. Some examples of feedback they received included suggestions for attention to our stakeholder engagement related to diverse groups, to address students with disabilities and English Learners (EL), specifically using the three chief EL principles, and to use other indicators as may be relevant since Delaware is known for its robust data systems. The final draft of the application may be found on: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/ddoe/DelawareESEAFlexibilitRequest.pdf>.

V. Action Items

Although a quorum of the Board was present, due to the unexpected availability of members, the Board did not have the requisite number of members required for action, therefore all actions items were deferred to the next meeting.

VI. Discussion

To ensure maximum participation, all discussion items were also deferred to the next meeting.

VII. Presentation

A guest speaker travelled from Washington State to provide a presentation regarding available testing options. Mr. Michels explained that the Department had made a suggestion that the PSB hear a presentation from Pearson. Pearson is a company that provides tests of general knowledge and content knowledge for educators. Mr. Michels introduced Mr. Les McCallum from Pearson Evaluation Group who began by providing PSB members with folders containing information on Pearson's evaluation system. He then gave a PowerPoint presentation on Pearson's National Evaluation Series (NES). He said Pearson is a very large company and developed NES to offer alternatives to the then current educator evaluation products. He gave a brief history of NES and talked about the many states in which it's being used. He said NES is the largest teacher certification testing company. He discussed the content and development process and said these are 100% computer-based tests. Mr. McCallum said the NES offers continual testing, immediate scores except for the writing essay, as well as excellent candidate support through their customer service. He said these tests are taken worldwide and Pearson offers online interactive practice tests. Mr. McCallum summarized the services available and discussed Pearson's customer support, technical assistance provided, and transition services. It was clarified that this was an initial introduction of Pearson products and that more information was available. Mr. McCallum also discussed that Pearson's practice requires a State contract before testing is available.

VIII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Committee had not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Committee had not met.

IX. Other

None.

X. Public Comment

None.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 3:10 p.m.